

Appl. No. : 09/749,373
Filed : December 22, 2000

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-4, 9, 13, and 14 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for managing, promoting, teaching and enabling multiple levels of charitable giving to philanthropic organizations comprising:

printing a philanthropy negotiable check having (a) a face value in U.S. dollars, (b) ~~the a~~ name of a charitable institution as payor, (c) ~~the a~~ name of said payor's bank as drawee, (d) a blank line to be filled in as payee, and (e) a notice on ~~the a reverse side of the negotiable check~~ that the check must not be presented for payment by any entity that is not a qualified charitable institution,

distributing said philanthropy check to contributors to said charitable institution,

distributing said philanthropy checks by said contributors to any third party recipient through one or more levels of gift giving,

entering by said third party recipient the name of any qualified charitable institutions as payee of said philanthropy check,

delivering said philanthropy check to said payee charitable institution,

depositing said philanthropy checks in a bank by said payee qualified charitable institution,

confirming that said payee is a qualified charitable institution under United States Internal Revenue Code; and

transferring funds from said payor institution bank to said recipient qualified charitable institution after the payee has been confirmed to be a qualified charitable institution.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A multiple level philanthropic giving system comprising:

a philanthropy check on which is printed (a) ~~the a~~ name of a charitable institution as payor and (b) ~~the a~~ name of said institution's bank as drawee, (c) a blank line to be filled in with ~~the a~~ name of the payee, and (d) a notice on ~~the a~~ reverse side of the check that the check must not be presented for payment by an entity that is not a qualified charity;

first means for comparing the name of the payee with an abbreviated list of qualified charities, and

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second means for comparing the name of the payee with complete list of qualified charities under United States Internal Revenue Code if said first means fails to locate the name of the payee on said abbreviated list of qualified charities.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method for enabling multiple levels of charitable giving to philanthropic organizations comprising:

issuing to consumers a negotiable philanthropy check having a fixed monetary value, ~~the~~ a payor of said check being a charitable institution,

filling in by the consumer or by any recipient who receives the philanthropy check originally issued to said consumer, the name of a second charitable institution as drawee of said philanthropy check, and

comparing ~~the~~ an identity of said drawee with a list of qualified charities under United States Internal Revenue Code before the philanthropy check is honored by the drawee of said philanthropy check.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A gift giving method for enabling multiple levels of giving to philanthropic organizations comprising:

issuing to consumers a negotiable philanthropy check having a fixed monetary value, the payor of said check being a charitable institution, and

filling in by the consumer or by any recipient who receives the philanthropy check originally issued to said consumer, the name of a second charitable institution that is a qualified charitable institution under United States Internal Revenue Code as drawee of said philanthropy check.

5. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 4, including distributing said philanthropy checks as incentive awards.

6. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 4, including distributing said philanthropy checks to students as part of an educational instruction on the importance of charitable giving.

7. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 4, including distributing said philanthropy checks as point of sale items.

8. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 4, including distributing said philanthropy checks using the Internet.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A gift giving method for enabling multiple levels of charitable giving to philanthropic organizations comprising:

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comparing the an identity of the a payee of a philanthropy check said drawee with a list of qualified charities under United States Internal Revenue Code before the philanthropy check is honored by the a drawee of said philanthropy check and funds are withdrawn from the a payor's bank account.

10. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 9, wherein said comparing is performed by both the payor and the drawee.

11. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 9, wherein said comparing is substantially performed by the payor.

12. (Original) The gift giving method of Claim 9, wherein said comparing is substantially performed by the drawee.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A philanthropy check comprising a printed document having:

- a face value in U.S. dollars;
- the name of a qualified charity as payor;
- the name of a drawee bank;
- a blank line to be filled in as payee;
- a notice on the a back side of the check that the check must not be presented for payment by other than a qualified charitable institution; and
- a notice on the front side of the check that the transfer of the check to a qualifying charity is not a charitable contribution under United States Internal Revenue Code.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A philanthropy check comprising a printed document having:

- a face value in U.S. dollars;
- the name of a qualified charity as payor;
- the name of a drawee bank;
- a blank line to be filled in as payee; and
- a notice on the a side of the check that the check must not be presented for payment by other than a qualified charitable institution under United States Internal Revenue Code.